

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 12 February 2007**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(121) Output 1.2: Refugee and Humanitarian Entry and Stay**

Senator Evans asked:

What is the Department's assessment of the position of non-Muslim religious minorities in Iraq and in particular has the Department made any assessment as to whether persons of non-Muslim religious minorities in Iraq who are facing persecution are entitled to enter Australia on a temporary or permanent basis?

*Answer:*

Consistent with Australia's global, non-discriminatory Humanitarian Programme, all applications for a humanitarian visa, including those from non-Muslim religious minorities in Iraq, are considered on a case by case basis. Iraqis have featured prominently in the Humanitarian Programme, ranking second overall since 2001, with more than 10 000 Iraqis having arrived in Australia on humanitarian visas since 2001. Applications from Iraqi non-Muslim religious minorities are among those accepted for resettlement in Australia.